

Meeting of the Heating Advisory Committee on August 9, 2006

Members present: Kevin Bayley, Alan Davis, Steve Dumais, Bob Ives, Al Little, Bob Lundergan, Kevin Pratt, Lyndon Rickards, Bob Wilkins

Suggestions from Bruce Buttrick's e-mail were discussed. The committee did not feel it was necessary to break up into small groups to work on each problem. A baseline or core knowledge had already been established in the revised rules. The questions of initial apprentice and initial existing technician licensing would be worked out shortly. The issues of fees and testing and examinations would be up to the Fire Marshal. The committee could make recommendations but the final decision is made by the Fire Marshal. The continuing education issue was already solved.

Comments from Tedd Evans' e-mail were reviewed. Mr. Evans felt that the approved training programs did not adequately cover NFPA 54, NFPA 58, the International Mechanical Code, and the International Residential Code. The committee did not agree because HB 1711 only mentions NFPA 54 and committee members felt the training programs did adequately cover the relevant codes. Mr. Evans felt that the proposed rules would give an immediate advantage to those who had been previously certified by or who had access to the approved training programs. The committee disagreed because of the willingness of the committee and the provisions of the proposed rules to approve additional training programs (provided they met the criteria established in the rules). The testing option that only required having the minimum number of hours was also cited as a viable alternative to the approved training options. Mr. Evans also stated in his e-mail that all licensees should be tested on all four of the codes mentioned above. The committee disagreed because HB 1711 only mentions NFPA 54 and committee members felt the training programs did adequately cover the relevant codes.

The rules as revised by Lyndon Rickards were reviewed and well received by the committee. Thank you Lyndon.

Bob Ives reviewed the NATE educational requirements and Steve Dumais reviewed the hearth systems educational requirements. Steve suggested adding the appropriate NATE Training and the Bay State Gas/Northern Utilities programs to those acceptable for hearth systems.

The members of the committee decided to decrease the hours required for the installation and service specialty licenses from 2,000 hours to 1,000 hours. They also decided to specify that these hours were in addition to the required hours for the gas piping installer and these hours could run concurrently with hours for other specialty licenses.